

[Learn About the Recently Passed Health Care Reform Bill](#)



Congressman Blumenauer worked this year to provide universal, quality health care for all Americans. [Learn more](#) about recent health care reforms or visit HealthCare.gov for the most up-to-date information.

Treating the whole person, not just physical ailments, is critical to the comprehensive approach. Early detection of disease and prevention through childhood vaccinations, semi-annual dental cleanings, mammograms, and other routine checks results in healthier citizens as well as long-term cost savings.



[Watch Congressman Blumenauer speak at OHSU about the importance of neuroscience](#) **Comprehensive and Affordable Health Care for All Americans**

Oregon is a model for quality care that is also efficient and Congressman Blumenauer worked hard to ensure this type of care was encouraged and properly compensated. The health care system must be restructured to reward efficiency and encourage preventative care so we can achieve the best possible health outcomes. Better coordination of services, along with investing our health care dollars more strategically, will lead to cost savings for our taxpayers and far healthier Americans.

Congressman Blumenauer has long supported improving both the health and health care of all Americans and over the course of the health care debate worked toward the following principles:

- Provide comprehensive health care coverage and access for all
- Improve the quality, value and equality of health care
- Prevent disease and promote healthier lifestyles
- Reign in ineffective health care spending

- Invest in research that provides better information to both physicians and patients about the most effective treatment options
- Train a health care workforce to meet our community's needs
- Give states the flexibility to explore new, innovative ideas that will enhance coverage or improve accessibility.

Congressman Blumenauer strongly supports consumers being allowed to choose their own doctor and select which health plan is best for their family. Individuals deserve a full range of choices, including a public health insurance plan to restore competition in consolidated health insurance markets. A public health insurance plan competing with private plans already in the market will lower health care premiums, lead the way in innovation, and improve health quality.

Including a public health insurance plan as an option for consumers creates transparency and accountability to the market, assuring both viable competitors and real competition. This kind of model could reduce projected health care costs by about \$2 trillion over 11 years, and lower premiums by up to 20 percent on average.

Health Care for our Children

Congressman Blumenauer is a firm advocate for children's health insurance. Good health starts by making sure all kids, from an early age, have access to health care.

In February he voted in favor of the reauthorization of the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to provide healthcare coverage to 11 million American children. It passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 290-135.

This bipartisan bill will preserve coverage for 63,090 Oregon children currently enrolled in SCHIP and will add an additional 42,700 uninsured children in Oregon. With this reauthorization Oregon would see a 40 percent reduction in the number of uninsured children.

"At a time when Oregon families are struggling with rising costs of healthcare and rising unemployment causing a loss of employee sponsored healthcare, we can provide a signal of hope and a source of relief," said Rep. Blumenauer. "After three years of working to pass this bill, after three years of fighting for the health and future of America's children, our new

president will finally sign this bill into law today and bring our nation one step closer to providing quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.”

Wellness and Prevention

Congressman Blumenauer recognizes that prevention is essential to keeping people healthy, and policies that support wellness make sense from both a medical and financial standpoint. More than half of America’s adults are overweight, and nearly one-third are obese. In addition to being the second leading cause of unnecessary deaths in the U.S., obesity also carries annual healthcare costs of about \$100 billion. Not only are these figures alarming, but they demonstrate that we are witnessing a rapid decline in the overall health of our citizens in epidemic proportions.

Congressman Blumenauer is a longtime advocate of preventive care, which includes providing access to locally grown food that is healthy. He has also worked to offer a variety of transportation options, including incentives to bike to work. Policies regarding natural spaces in residential areas and even guaranteed sick days all have a tremendous impact on our health and well-being.

In 2008 Congress passed, and the President signed, Congressman Blumenauer's Bike Commuter Act, which extends transportation benefits similar to those offered for parking and transit, to those who commute by bicycle. Last Congress he also introduced the Healthy Foods for Healthy Living Act, which increases access to fresh fruits, vegetables and healthy alternatives in low-income communities in an effort to combat obesity.

This Congress, Senator Harkin and Congressman Blumenauer introduced the Healthy Workforce Act to assist businesses in providing a range of opportunities to help their employees lead healthier lives, including incentives to offer onsite health promotion programs. The legislation is targeted primarily at smaller and mid-sized companies, who would otherwise have difficulty making the initial investment needed to support such programs. Keeping workers healthy in the first place can go a long way to reducing the growth in health care costs to employers.

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